Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

## Economic Statistics Released During the Week of May 5, 2003 to May 9, 2003

| | Reference Period | Month/Previous Month (m/m) | Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y) | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Building Permits ($ Millions) | March | | | Building permits in Canada declined by 4.4% in March. Residential permits rose by 3.1%, but this was more than offset by a 15.9% decline in non-residential permits. Nevertheless, Canadian building permits remained on a record pace through the first 3 months of 2003, up 6.6% from the same period last year. In Alberta, building permits were running 1.9% ahead of the pace set in the first quarter of 2002. |
| Alberta | 482.3 | -16.2% | -15.8% | |
| Canada | 3,644.3 | -4.4% | 0.0% | |
| Total Stocks of Grain at March 31, 2003 ('000 tonnes) | End of March | | Year Over Previous Year | At the end of March, total Canadian on-farm and commercial grain stocks were down 17.5% from the same period last year. Due to the effects of two consecutive droughts in Western Canada, on-farm stocks of the six major grains were down by 31.9%. On-farm wheat stocks in western Canada were down by one-quarter from March 2002. Nationally, the decline in total wheat stocks was 13%, while barley (-47%) and canola (-16%) stocks were also down significantly. |
| Canada | 24,537 | n/a | -17.5% | |
| Help-Wanted Index (1996 = 100) | April | | | Alberta's Help-Wanted Index was unchanged in April, while the Canadian Index declined marginally (-0.1%). The Canadian Index has been in decline since June 2002. Newfoundland was the only province to record an increase (+0.1%) in April. Eight provinces experienced monthly declines, with the largest decreases occurring in British Columbia (-0.7%) and Nova Scotia (-0.4%).<br>Note: Statistics Canada has terminated the Help-Wanted Index as of April 2003, due to concerns over its performance in light of the growing use of the Internet by employers in posting job openings. |
| Alberta | 123.0 | 0.0% | -10.1% | |
| Canada | 110.8 | -0.1% | -13.0% | |